

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1-7, 9, 11-20 and 23-26. Claims 10, 21 and 22, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter (page 5 of the Office Action refers to claim "8" but it is believed that the Examiner meant claim 10 as claim 8 was included in the Examiner's prior art rejection), have been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10 (including claim 8 on which claim 10 depends), and by adding new claims 25 and 26 corresponding to claims 21 and 22, respectively. Accordingly, claims 8, 10, 21 and 22 have been canceled, and claims 9 and 11, which previously depended on claim 8, have been amended to depend on claim 1. In addition, claims 12, 14, 18, 19, 23 and 24 have been amended to improve their form. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 12, 18, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in the recitation of a broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation in the same claim. In response, Applicants have amended claims 12, 18, and 23 to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112,

second paragraph, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection on this basis be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9, 11, 15-17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Ozawa et al. European Patent Application No. 0821035*. Claims 12-14, 18, 19, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ozawa et al.* in view of *Albrecht U.S. Patent No. 5,928,782*. The Examiner has also indicated that claims "8" (presumably claim 10), 21 and 22 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

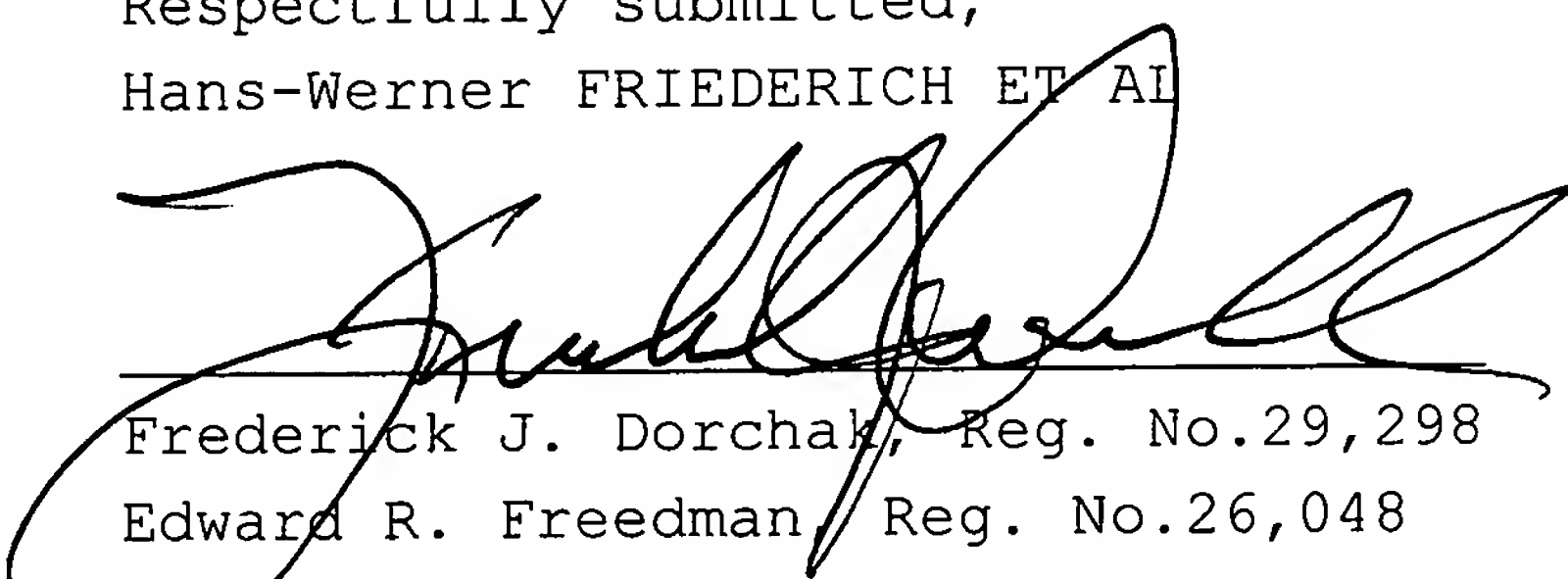
In response, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claim 1 to substantially incorporate the subject matter of claims 8 and 10, have rewritten claims 21 and 22 in independent form substantially as new claims 25 and 26, respectively, have amended claims 9 and 11 to depend on claim 1, and have canceled claims 8, 10, 21 and 22. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.



In summary, claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 14, 18, 19 and 23-24 have been amended, claims 8, 10, 21 and 22 have been canceled, and new claims 25 and 26 have been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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